



2312 SO. ANDREWS AVENUE · FORT LAUDERDALE, FL 33316 ·

October 23, 2006

via e-mail

**Federal Communications Commission**

Chairman Kevin Martin  
Commissioner Deborah Taylor Tate  
Commissioner Michael Copps  
Commissioner Robert McDowell  
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein

The Portals  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: WC Docket No. 06-74--**Approval Urged**

Dear FCC Commissioners:

On behalf of the 800 member businesses of the Marine Industries Association of South Florida (MIASF), I am writing to urge your approval of the AT&T-BellSouth merger.

As the Executive Director of the MIASF, I have been carefully following the merger's progress and particularly the developments of the past few days.

It is clear to me that this merger will serve the public interest and greatly benefit customers of the combined company.

The commitments that AT&T recently announced for much greater broadband affordability and availability are especially beneficial to MIASF. Access to broadband is of great concern to our membership.

Approval of the merger will address this critical need by offering truly *affordable* and *ubiquitous* service.

I understand that AT&T has proposed to the Commission a commitment to provide its dial access customers a free modem for upgrading to DSL service. I also understand the company has offered to make available a \$10 monthly

residential broadband offering as well as deliver broadband capability to *all* residential units in its combined territory, including lower-income and rural areas.

Page 2

These commitments will help drive high-speed broadband usage and help close the digital divide between rich and poor, urban and rural.

I urge the Commission to approve the merger of AT&T and BellSouth promptly so that consumers including members of MIA SF can benefit as soon as possible from the broadband provisions this merger offers.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Frank J. DeWald".

Executive Director

cc: Marlene Dortch, Commission Secretary